

AGENDA



Thursday, November 29, 2007

Public Works
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 20

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 12-1 of the City Code by repealing Article 6 related to Automated Red Light Enforcement and replacing it with a new Article 6 that comports with applicable state law.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Dave Gerard, 974-7022, Randy Stoneroad, 974-2101, Robin Field 974-7064.

Prior Council Action: On November 2, 2006, Council adopted Article 6 of Chapter 12-1 of the Code of Ordinances which imposes a civil penalty upon the owner or driver of a vehicle that proceeds into a monitored intersection when the traffic control signal for that vehicle's direction of travel is emitting a steady red signal.

On July 27, 2006, the Austin City Council adopted a resolution directing the City Manager to create an implementation plan for Automated Red Light Enforcement by means of Photographic Traffic Monitoring Systems. The goal of the Automated Red Light Enforcement Program is to reduce fatal and injury crashes at monitored intersections by 25 percent.

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The 80th Texas Legislature passed SB 1119 which regulates Automated Red Light Enforcement. The newly passed legislation became effective September 1, 2007. Due to the passing of the above legislation, this Council action is now necessary to ensure that the City of Austin's Automated Red Light Enforcement ordinance comports with state law.

The civil penalty for a single violation is \$75 if timely paid. A \$25 late payment fee is charged if payment is not timely made.

The City of Austin will deduct authorized operating costs from the gross amount of penalties and fees collected under this Program. The remainder will be distributed to the State Comptroller's Office and deposited into a City of Austin traffic safety fund, in accordance with state law. The funds deposited into the traffic safety fund will be used for traffic and pedestrian safety projects, traffic enforcement efforts, and roadway improvement projects

The City has completed a pilot study program and has selected Redflex as its Automated Red Light Enforcement vendor. This ordinance and a multi-year contract with Redflex are integral components of the City of Austin's Photographic Traffic Monitoring System that will be emplaced and activated at 10 to 15 separate intersections by early 2008.